
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

A regular meeting of City Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Vaughn D. Spencer, President of Council, called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Council President Vaughn D, Spencer.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Vaughn Spencer
Councilor Steve Fuhs, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Maria Baez, District 5
Mayor, Thomas McMahon
Managing Director, R. Hottenstein
City Solicitor, C. Younger
City Clerk, L. Kelleher
City Auditor, D. Cituk
Sgt. at Arms, Captain R. Schafer
Historic Resolution Specialist, A. Johnson
Mayor Assistant, C. Hemnitz

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Council Commendations

- Recognizing National Historic Preservation Month, accepted by Amy Johnson, Historic Preservation Officer
- Preservation Commendations presented by Amy Johnson, Historic Preservation Officer and Peter Sutliff, HARB Chair
- Recognizing Salvation Army Month, accepted by Majors Laurence and Lynne Wittenberg

- Recognizing National Police Week and Reading Police Memorial Day, accepted by Police Chief William Heim and members of the Fraternal Order of Police
- Recognizing United Corrstack, accepted by David Stauffer, Vice President and General Manager
- Recognizing the achievements of Reading High School athletes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Spencer announced that five (5) citizens were registered to address Council on non-agenda issues. He inquired if Council objected to suspending the rule requiring comment on non-agenda matters at the conclusion of the meeting. No one objected, therefore, the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the conclusion of the meeting was suspended. Council President Spencer reminded the citizen registered to speak about the remaining public speaking rules.

George Cook, of Lancaster, PA, was not present.

Ruth Martelli, of Palm St., announced the desire of the College Heights Community in northeast Reading, around Albright College, to be designated as a historic district called “The Heights”. She stated that the kick off meeting with Michel LeFever, from the PA Historic Museum Commission, will be held on Tuesday, June 2 at 7 pm at 13th and Union Elementary School, in the cafeteria. She also noted the continuation of the Cherry Blossom Festival in collaboration with Earth Day. She asked City Council and Reading citizens to support the Visitor’s Bureau and Arts Council whose funding is threatened at state and federal levels.

Nick Urffer, was not present.

Joe Webb, representing City of Reading Board of Health, described the Board of Health’s ongoing concern with the lack of remediation at Bernhart’s Park. He noted the dangers of lead contamination at Bernhart’s Park. He noted the dangers of the lead contamination and the dangers associated with draining the lake to allow the inspection of the dam breast. He announced that the Board of Health adopted a resolution at their March meeting, which addresses there concerns with the lead contamination at Bernhart’s Park and the dangers associated with the plan to drain the lake. He also noted the Board of Health’s intent to issue a statement on the recent reports prepared by the PA Department

of Health and the ATSDR which discusses the lead contamination of the Park and the suggested remediation plan.

Mary Ann Ciarlone, of North 5th Street, suggested that City Council be wary of the amendment to the Human Rights Anti-Discrimination ordinance, which expands the enforcement authority of the Human Relations Commission. She inquired why the Commission disbanded several years ago is being reformed. She also invited City Council to attend an open house at a property she was selling in Centre Park. She also requested a copy of the draft Maximus Report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Spencer called Council's attention to the minutes from the May 11th Regular Meeting, and the agenda for this meeting along with the consent agenda legislation.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to approve the minutes from the May 11th regular meeting and to adopt the agenda, along with the legislation listed under the agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda Legislation

Award of Contract - for the collection of delinquent recycling/trash bills for the Solid Waste Division, Department of Public Works to Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd., 1000 Sandy Hill Road, Norristown, PA 19401
(Purchasing)

Resolution 55-2009 – authorizing the amendment of the FFY2008 one year Action Plan and the FFY2004 to FFY2008 five year Consolidated Plan to program \$1,267,021 in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program funding. (Community Development)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor McMahon read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Armed Forces Day parade, Saturday, May 16, 2009, beginning at Park Road in Wyomissing and concluding in 8th and Penn Streets in Reading.
- Summer Youth Work Program for citizens ages 16-24.
- City-wide community meeting,, Tuesday June 2nd at 7 pm , at the Historical Society.

- Confirming the Budget Summit scheduled for Saturday, June 20th and issuance of the financial comprehensive plan.

Councilor Marmarou inquired how many jobs will be available in the Summer Job Work Program. Mayor McMahon stated that he is unsure.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Dave Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following topics:

- Summary of the first Blue Ribbon Panel meeting held on April 29th in the Penn Room.
- A comparison of the state liquid fuels revenue and summary of cable franchise fees

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Councilor President Spencer announced that there are no ordinances eligible for final passage at this meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Ordinance – amending Section 6 Prohibited Behaviors of the Code of Ethics by adding a provision regarding Fraudulent Behavior and amending the provisions regarding Use of City Property and Personnel and Political Activities (**Board of Ethics**)

Ordinance - approving collection procedures and adopting penalty, interest and schedule of attorney fees to be added to the amount collected as part of municipal claims for delinquent accounts for solid waste accounts (**Law**)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 56-2009 - authorizing the filing of a proposal for designation as a PA Main Street Community with the Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (**Community Development**)

Councilor Fuhs moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution 56-2009.

The motion to approve Resolution 56-2009 was adopted by the following vote:

**Yea: Baez, Fuhs, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Spencer,
President - 6.
Nay: None - 0.**

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Fuhs asked Ms. Ciarlone to supply a copy of the legislation she referred to earlier in the meeting.

Councilor Fuhs also asked everyone to remember that the state deficit grew under Democratic leadership. He noted the Republican's parties failed attempts to cut spending and reduce cutbacks.

Councilor Fuhs thanked Corrstacks for their investment in the City of Reading and their strong community spirit.

Councilor Fuhs also thanked the Public Works employees who worked to rescue the ducklings on Mother's Day.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the beauty of the city's architecture and the pride of those residing in historic districts. She noted that visitors to Reading are always impressed by the quality and beauty of the City's architecture.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz announced the dedication of mural organized by Southeast People's Voice this Sunday.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that the passion and dedication of the Public Works employees who rescued the ducklings.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the City needs to stick to its guns and demand the proper remediation of the lead contamination in Bernhart's Park. She expressed the belief that Exide Corporation needs to held accountable.

Councilor Marmarou announced the upcoming College Heights Community council meeting on Sunday, May 17th at 7 pm.

Councilor Baez congratulated those receiving commendations at tonight's meeting. She also thanked Pastor Knotts at the Wesley Methodist Church located at North Front and Windsor Streets, along with Chief Heim and Solid Wasted manager, Frank Denbowski, for working with her to organize the

neighborhood meeting in this area. She noted her desire to continue meeting with this neighborhood on a bi-monthly basis.

Councilor Sterner congratulated those receiving commendations this evening. He thanked Joe Webb and the Board of Health for their supportive position on the Bernhart's Park.

Councilor Sterner reminded everyone that a clean-up at the Orange and Cherry Street lot is scheduled for this Saturday at 1 pm. He expressed his belief in the work of the Arts Council and the Visitor's Bureau to promote tourism and culture in the city.

Council President Spencer stated, in regards to the statement made by Mary Ann Ciarlone during public comment, that the City's Human Relations Commission was not disbanded. He stated that the County Human Relations Council was disbanded by the County Commissioners around 2004.

Council President Spencer reviewed the meeting schedule.

Councilor Fuhs moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Linda Kelleher CMC, City Clerk